THE NATIONAL CENTER ON Quality Teaching and Learning

Teacher Time
Webinars for Head Start Preschool Teachers

FOLLOW-UP

BEYOND SINK AND FLOAT:

SCIENCE FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

FRIDAY, DEC. 12, 2014

Thank You!

We're so glad you were able to join us for another Teacher Time. Let's continue to learn from each other! Send your ideas, questions, and strategies to ncqtl@uw.edu and we'll include them on Teacher Time.

Looking Ahead

Don't miss the next Teacher Time, **Friday, Feb. 13, 2015, 3 p.m. EST (12 noon PST),** for simple, exciting ways to engage children with engineering activities.

Presentation Summary

This month we went beyond sink and float to talk about early childhood science learning with Dr. Andrew Shouse and Marvelous Explorations with Science and Stories (MESS).

Key messages from the presentation:

- Children can understand abstract scientific concepts.
- Natural curiosity helps children to be keen observers.
- You don't need deep science knowledge to teach science.
- You can focus on developing children's scientific thinking skills.
- Conduct scientific explorations over an extended time. This will provide many examples and opportunities for understanding a concept.
- Avoid less effective approaches: magic show science; hodgepodge or sporadic efforts; limiting science activities to art (instead of conducting an investigation, for example); or keeping science separated in a stand-alone center.

Try It Out

1. The same science concept can be repeated in multiple areas of the classroom. For example, when studying transformations you can place examples of different materials that are changing over time in the dramatic play area, the science center, outside, and the block area.
2. Sit Spots is an activity where children sit in the same spot at different times and make observations that they record using investigation journals. Children observe, draw, and write in their journals and keep a record of changes over time. For example, this is a way to conduct an investigation over time about the weather.

Resources

Science Toolkit: http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/teaching/practice/curricula/SKandS.html

15-minute In-service Suite: Using the Scientific Method: http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/teaching/practice/engage/iss/scientific-method.html

Scientific Method Poster: http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/teaching/eecd/Domains of Child Development/Science/using-scientific-method-poster-1.pdf

Marvelous Exploration Through Science and Stories: http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/teaching/eecd/Domains of Child Development/Science/OurNaturalWorld.htm

Behavior Management Minute

Transition Tip

- Keep the seating at small group tables the same for a while (these six children sit at the red table)
- If needed, put names on the spots (or chairs)
- Have quick access to activities that children can start independently
- Prepare small group materials in advance and place in color-coordinated bins that match each table. This is especially helpful for science experiments that can be packed away in a bin and prepared in advance.
- If a child needs a modification, include it in the color-coordinated bin as well.

Resiliency & Wellness

Ten Minute Tidy

The Ten Minute Tidy is a quick organizational fix to help you stay on top of things. Here are some ideas you can do in ten minutes:

- Do the dishes at night so you wake to a clean sink
- Put out your clothes for tomorrow
- Place your keys by the door so you don't panic looking for them in the morning
- Pack a healthy lunch/snacks so you can avoid vending machines or fast food chains
- Prep for a healthy breakfast
- Sort the mail so you don't miss time-sensitive important notices
- Involve the whole family!

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For more information, contact us at: NCQTL@UW.EDU or 877-731-0764

This document was prepared under Grant #90HC0002 for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, by the National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning.

FALL 2014